have delegated powers to the MOU signing companies to transfer functional Directors from one charge to another, in the interest of the company, in consultation with the administrative Ministry and the approval of the Minister. In pursuance of these powers, a few companies under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel, have effected transfers of their functional Directors (including Managing Directors). Such transfers are therefore neither irregular, nor violative of any Presidential orders, and are made to meet organizational needs and administrative convenience.

Safety Measures at Chasnala Collieries

3489. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether safety measures and other actions had been taken by Government in the past incident occurred at Chasnala Collieries ;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) what action has been taken against the Officers responsible for the said mishap;

(d) what are the fresh safety measures Government have taken after the last year's mishap in the Chasnala Collieries ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. SAIL has taken several safety measures both on surface and underground at Chasnala Collieries. Some of them include the following :—

(i) Diveration of Main water jore (small stream) passing over the surface area of the mine.

(ii) Construction of embankment on the banks of the River Damodar, to prevent flow of water to the low lying areas.

(iii) Construction of a concrete plug dam per specifications duly approved by the Director General of Mines Safety.

(iv) Construction of underground supports for which special steel yielding arches rolled at IISCO Burnpur were used.

(v) Survey of old workings which has been done jointly with Director General of Mines Safety.

(vi) 5 bore holes with steel casing have been made to tap water from the old workings.

(vii) As part of the modernisation plan of Chasnala, advanced technology to extract Coal from thick seams are being adopted with advice of expert foreign consultants.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Four top officers of the Colliery Complex were dismissed after the accident at Chasnala in December, 1975.

(d) and (e) Appropriate safety measures to safeguard employee's lives have been taken by the colliery management, after last year's fatal accident at Chasnala where one loader was injured and died ultimately owing to his inability to respond to medical treatment.

Policy on Import of Steel and Iron Scrap

3490. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's policy on the import of steel and iron scrap;

(b) why is Government not allowing free and duty-free imports of steel keeping in mind the national requirements ;

(c) if so, what quantity of different varieties of steel is given annually to the tiny and small sector ; and

(d) what are Government's plans to enhance production of steel in 1995 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH

MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The current export-import policy freely allows import of steel and scrap. Customs duty on import of various steel items has been brought down substantially in recent budgets. Duty free import of steel and scrap is also permitted against exports.

(c) As imports are freely allowed, there is no system of allocation of imported steel to tiny and small sector. However, small scale sector continues to be one of the priority sectors even after the deregulation of pricing and distribution of steel. During 1993-94, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel allocated 5.14 lakh tonnes of steel materials to Small Scale Industries Corporations in different States to meet the requirements of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs). Besides, SSI units also take supplies directly from main steel producers and secondary producers.

(d) In order to increase production of steel, the public sector steel plants have taken up modernisation/expansion programmes. Steps have also been taken to facilitate the setting up of new capacities in the private sector.

धनबाद में चासनाला में कोयला खनन

3491. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

श्री शिव प्रताप मिश्र :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या धनबाद की चसनाला कोयला खानों में खनन कार्य में अभी भी खतरा बना हुआ है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है,

(ग) क्या कोयला खानों के आधुनिकीकरण को योजना सहित कोई ठोस सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाए गए हैं,

(घ) यदि हां, तो इनके मुख्य लक्षण क्या हैं, और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) खानों के सतह पर तथा भूमिगत कार्य क्षेत्रों में निम्नलिखित सुरक्षा-उपाय किए जाते हैं :—

सतह पर

(i) खान स्थल के मध्य से गुजरने वाली पानी की मुख्य धारा को दाउन्ड्री की तरफ मोड़ा गया है।

(ii) दामोदर नदी के तट पर चौड़ा पुश्ता बनाया गया है।

भूमिगत कार्य

(i) रिसाव वाले वास्तविक स्थल को ठोस कंकरीट बांध द्वारा बन्द किया गया है।

(ii) पूर्व की तरफ के पुराने कार्य स्थलों से पानी निकाल दिया गया है और खान सुरक्षा महानिदेशक के साथ संयुक्त रूप से सर्वेक्षण किया गया है ।

(iii) पुराने कार्य स्थलों से पानी टपकने को रोकने के लिए इस्पात मंढित पांच बोर होल बनाए गए हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त चसनाला में 25 लाख रू० की लागत से एक व्यावसायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र बनाया गया है।

वर्ष 1996-97 तक दो चरणों में चासनाला खान का आधुनिकीकरण कार्य किया जाना है, जिसमें मोटी परतो से कोयले के उत्खनन के लिए अद्यतन प्रौद्योगिकी का प्रयोग होगा । परम्परागत विस्फोटन पद्धति के स्थान पर कोयले की कटाई करने के लिए शियर्र का उपयोग किया जाएगा और इसकी ढुलाई